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Change in Soviet Reporting of Textile Production.

1. With the announcement of First Quarter Plan Fulfillment data, Soviet production of cotton, wool, rayon, and linen cloth was reported in square meters. Until now comparable data has been reported in linear meters. This change in reporting provides the information from which to derive the average widths of each of these major types of cloth -- a measurement for which analysts have searched in past years. In the last few months increased interest along these lines has prompted additional research resulting in width estimates which are in close agreement with the newly derived average widths.

2. Widths of the various textiles as derived from the newly published data and recent I/MS estimates are as follows:

	<u>From official data a/</u>	<u>Recent I/MS estimates</u>
Cotton cloth	.76 meters wide	.76 meters wide
Wool cloth	1.27 meters wide	1.40 meters wide
Silk b/	1.23 meters wide	c/
Linen	1.10 meters wide	c/

a. FEBS Daily Report, 18 April 59, p. CC 18.

b. Including small quantities of cloth of natural silk and synthetic fiber.

c. Estimates could not be made because of inadequate weights.


3. Such changes in statistical reporting, for whatever reason, can result in confusion and even gross error. Such is the case in the statistical analysis of Mr. Paul Wohl, Christian Science Monitor, 21 April 1959, p. 10, entitled "Soviet Statistics Pull Queer Antics." Mr. Wohl's "strange inconsistencies" are explained by the fact that he attempted to compare the 1958 production (74 linear meters) in square meters without making the proper conversion. The 107% increase reported for wool cloth is, in fact, consistent with the Soviet data as reported.

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SUBJECT: Change in Soviet Reporting of Textile Production.

4. Because of the many such pitfalls to which consumers of the data will be subjected, it is believed that the report in progress (Project No. 3A.2473) "Comparability of Consumer Goods Output in the US and USSR" will be even more pertinent.


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